

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for navigating user interface elements, the method comprising:

grouping user interface elements of a user interface of a computer program application hierarchically into parent groups and sibling groups based on alphanumeric characters contained in text labels for the user interface elements ~~a hierarchical arrangement of the user interface elements, the hierarchical arrangement allowing for sibling groups and parent groups;~~

detecting a user navigation input comprising a sibling navigation input or a parent navigation input, the sibling navigation input comprising a key press of a first alphanumeric character, the first alphanumeric character ~~constituting~~ identifying a first sibling group of user interface elements ~~identifier~~, and the parent navigation input comprising a key press of a second alphanumeric character, the second alphanumeric character ~~constituting~~ identifying a second parent group of user interface elements ~~identifier~~;

if the detected navigation input is the sibling navigation input, shifting input focus to a next sibling group in the hierarchy; and

if the detected navigation input is the parent navigation input, shifting input focus to a parent group in the hierarchy.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

creating one or more hierarchical tab chains to contain all user interface elements currently displayed by the application,

wherein a node in a tab chain hierarchy is a container comprising one or more user interface elements and the container comprises a tab chain that contains all the user interface elements in the container.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein:

creating a new view creates a view container with a hierarchical tab chain that contains all the user interface elements for the new view; and

the hierarchical tab chain for the new view is added to the existing tab chain by adding a new node for the new view container in the existing hierarchical tab chain.

4 - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A computer program product tangibly embodied in a computer-readable storage medium, comprising instructions operable to cause a data processing apparatus to:

group user interface elements of a user interface of a computer program application hierarchically into parent groups and sibling groups based on alphanumeric characters contained in text labels for the user interface elements ~~a hierarchical~~

~~arrangement of the user interface elements, the hierarchical arrangement allowing for sibling groups and parent groups;~~

detect a user navigation input comprising a sibling navigation input or a parent navigation input, the sibling navigation input comprising a key press of a first alphanumeric character, the first alphanumeric character ~~constituting~~ identifying a first sibling group of user interface elements ~~identifier~~, and the parent navigation input comprising a key press of a second alphanumeric character, the second alphanumeric character ~~constituting~~ identifying a second parent group of user interface elements ~~identifier~~;

if the detected navigation input is the sibling navigation input, shifting input focus to a next sibling group in the hierarchy; and

if the detected navigation input is the parent navigation input, shifting input focus to a parent group in the hierarchy.

8. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 7, further comprising instructions to:

create one or more hierarchical tab chains to contain all user interface elements currently displayed by the application,

wherein a node in a tab chain hierarchy is a container comprising one or more user interface elements and the container comprises a tab chain that contains all the user interface elements in the container.

9. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 8, wherein:

creating a new view for the application creates a view container with a hierarchical tab chain that contains all the user interface elements for the new view; and the hierarchical tab chain for the new view is added to the existing tab chain by adding a new node for the new view container in the existing hierarchical tab chain.

10 - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for grouping user interface elements of a user interface of a computer program application hierarchically into parent groups and sibling groups based on alphanumeric characters contained in text labels for the user interface elements ~~a hierarchical arrangement of the user interface elements, the hierarchical arrangement allowing for sibling groups and parent groups;~~

means for detecting a user navigation input comprising a sibling navigation input or a parent navigation input, a sibling navigation input comprising a key press of a first alphanumeric character, the first alphanumeric character ~~constituting~~ identifying a first sibling group of user interface elements identifier, and a parent navigation input comprising a key press of a second alphanumeric character, the second alphanumeric character ~~constituting~~ identifying a second parent group of user interface elements identifier;

if the detected navigation input is the sibling navigation input, shifting input focus to a next sibling group in the hierarchy; and

if the detected navigation input is the parent navigation input, shifting input focus to a parent group in the hierarchy.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

means for creating one or more hierarchical tab chains to contain all user interface elements currently displayed by the application,

wherein a node in a tab chain hierarchy is a container comprising one or more user interface elements and the container comprises a tab chain that contains all the user interface elements in the container.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein:

creating a new view creates a view container with a hierarchical tab chain that contains all the user interface elements for the new view; and

the hierarchical tab chain for the new view is added to the existing tab chain by adding a new node for the new view container in the existing hierarchical tab chain.